

Justice wins 2015 Gila County Spelling Bee



Pictured (l-r) are Kristopher Klindt (4th place of Miami), Chris Provideo (3rd place of Globe), Alayna Dinges (2nd place of Tonto Basin), Colton Justice (1st place of Payson), and Gila County School Superintendent Linda O'Dell.

PAYSON – The 2015 Gila County Spelling Bee winner is Colton Justice, a seventh grader at Rim Country Middle School in Payson. Alayna Dinges, an eighth grader at Tonto Basin School, took second place, followed by third place winner Chris Provideo (7th) from Globe and fourth place winner Kristopher Klindt (6th) of Miami.

Justice will represent Gila County at the Arizona Spelling Bee on Saturday, March 21 at the Eight/Arizona PBS Studio located at 555 N. Central Ave. in Phoenix. The winner of the state spelling bee will advance to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. in late May.

This year's Gila County Spelling Bee lasted 14 rounds before a champion emerged. In all, 30 contestants vied for the chance to represent Gila County at state. They came from Copper Rim Elementary School and High Desert Middle School in Globe, Leonor Hambly K-8 School in Hayden-Winkelman, Lee Kornegay Intermediate School in Miami, Payson Community Christian School and Rim Country Middle School in Payson, Pine-Strawberry School, Young Public School, and Tonto Basin School. Payson High School hosted this year's Gila County Spelling Bee.

Gila County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Linda O'Dell, would like to thank all the students, parents, teachers, and administrators for their support of Gila County's spellers. She would also like to extend a special thank you to the volunteer pronouncers and judges. This year's pronouncers were Ms. Jacque Griffin and Ms. Su Connell. Serving as this year's judges were Ms. Pam Butterfield, Mr. Mike Clark, and Mr. Bobby Davis. O'Dell would also like to express her gratitude to Payson High School for hosting this year's Gila County Spelling Bee.

The Gila County Spelling Bee is an annual event sponsored by the Gila County School Superintendent's Office.